

# Together With



Commissioner Burns Phillips • 220 French Landing Drive, Nashville, TN • 800-249-8510



I am looking forward to the summer months as we anticipate the rollout of the 2014 Fall Protection Safety Stand Down (June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>) and the 38<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Safety & Health Congress (July 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>). Both of these events highlight safety and health in the workplace.

Workers' Memorial Day was observed on April 28. It was a day to honor workers who died on the job, to acknowledge the suffering experienced by families and communities, and to recommit ourselves to the pursuit of safe and healthful workplaces. It is also the day OSHA was established in 1971. Under the OSH Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their workers. TOSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for Tennessee's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, providing training and education, and administering consultative assistance. The safest workplaces in Tennessee are those where employees and employers work together to establish a culture of safety and health. I challenge you, as a safety professional or a safety committee member, to get involved in one of these events and change lives.

During the 2014 Legislative session, the Tennessee "Right-to-Know" Law (TCA 50-3-2001) workplace chemical list requirement was revised. The chemical list must now contain the product identifier and the location where the chemical is normally used or stored. Employers are no longer required to list each ingredient separately because this information is contained on the chemical Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Look for more about these changes in this newsletter in the future. In addition, the Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution final rule will be adopted by TOSHA within six months of OSHA's issuance.

Thankfully, summer has finally arrived in Tennessee. As the temperature rises, employers should include specific training on heat stress, provide ample liquids, and allow additional rest breaks in a shaded area (**WATER.REST.SHADE**). Check out the website, fact sheets, posters, quick cards, training guides, and wallet cards. OSHA also has a Heat Safety Tool APP for your Smartphone (<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/index.html>).

TOSHA welcomes to the VPP family the newly certified Volunteer Star (VPP) sites Delta Airlines-Memphis Technical Operations and GE Capital Aviation Services, Inc., both located in Memphis, Tennessee. Tennessee SHARP and VPP companies are among the safest in the state and serve as mentors for best practices in workplace safety and health. Check out their input in the TOSHA newsletter.

- Steve Hawkins, TOSHA Administrator

# INSIDE THIS EDITION

## VPP UPDATE



### Test your Emergency Action Plan - Does it work?

*Hal Williams, Safety and Health Manager,  
Bridgestone Americas - Warren County*

Would your emergency action plan work if you had an “active shooter” at your workplace? Do you know? With careful planning and support from approximately 50 volunteers from local emergency agency groups and the United Steel Workers local 1155L, that is the scenario simulated at the Warren County Bridgestone Americas facility to test the effectiveness of its emergency action plan. In the scenario, one shooter broke through the main gate, proceeding to the Learning Center Building, shooting teachers, children, and an ex-wife, then making his way to the main production building cafeteria and shooting five other teammates, then committing suicide. This drill ran “live,” meaning the events were allowed to unfold in real time. The scenario was setup to simulate as realistic of a response as possible with the five first-responders on shift and allowed the others to participate as either victims or as drill evaluators. The local emergency agencies were able to evaluate their specific responses to this situation beginning with the 911 call. After the drill, a debriefing meeting was held, so all participants could share thoughts and improvement ideas. In all, the drill was a huge success. It tested the company’s emergency action plan and the necessary responses! The local EMA director was very appreciative of the opportunity to test their system and is looking forward to future opportunities.

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# SHARP UPDATE

## Mueller Employees Achieve SHARP Status



On March 25, 2014, Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Dustin Swayne and Tennessee OSHA Administrator Steve Hawkins, presented the first year SHARP award to Mueller Refrigeration, LLC in Hartsville, TN.

Mueller Refrigeration has 181 employees at the Hartsville site who make valves and fittings for the HVAC and refrigeration industry. This site was established in 1974.

Commissioner Phillips presented the plaque to the site's management team, then he presented the flag to the safety committee. Following lunch, there was a tour of the facility by Mueller's staff to see their operation and safety culture at work.

Congratulations to all at Mueller for reaching SHARP status!

As of April 2014, there are 18 sites in Tennessee that have achieved SHARP status and two pre-SHARP sites.



# Newly Proposed Silica Standard: OSHA Factsheet

## Controlling Silica Exposures in Construction While Operating Hand-Operated Grinders

Silica is a mineral that is found in stone, soil and sand. It is also found in concrete, brick, mortar and other construction materials. Breathing in silica dust can cause silicosis, a serious lung disease. Using a hand-operated grinder on concrete, stone and similar materials can expose workers to hazardous levels of airborne silica. The small particles easily become suspended in the air and, when inhaled, penetrate deep into workers' lungs. Grinder operators' silica exposures are among the highest in the construction industry. This fact sheet describes ways to reduce workers' exposures to silica when using hand-operated grinders.

### Silica Dust Control Methods

There are three main methods used to control silica dust when using hand-operated grinders:

- Vacuum dust collection systems
- Wet grinding
- Adjustments in work methods

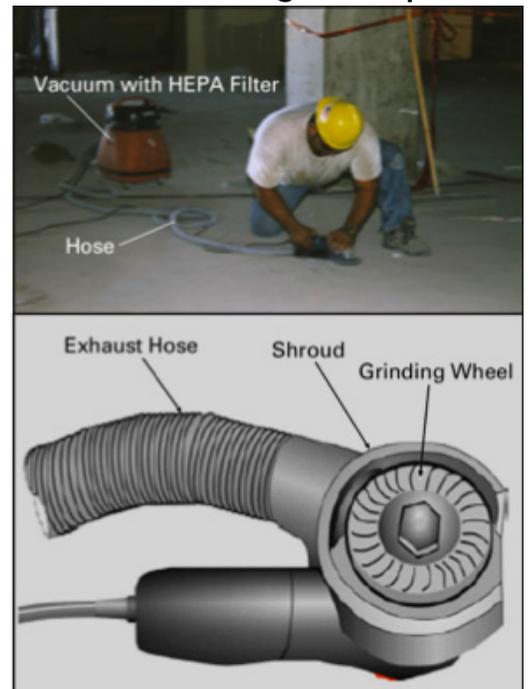
#### *Vacuum Dust Collection Systems*

Vacuum dust collection systems (VDCSs) are available for handheld grinders, often as an add-on unit. The VDCSs should include a shroud, which surrounds the grinding wheel, a vacuum, hose, and filter(s).

- Use a shroud or hood that is recommended by the tool manufacturer.
- Use a vacuum with enough suction to capture dust at the grinding point.
- Use a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter in the vacuum exhaust.
- Use a 1 1/2-to 2-inch diameter vacuum exhaust hose or a hose size that is recommended by the tool manufacturer.
- Use a static pressure gauge, where available, to monitor performance.

VDCSs work best when workers are properly trained and use good work practices. For best results:

- Keep the vacuum hose clear and free of debris, kinks and tight bends.
- Turn the vacuum off and on regularly to reduce dust buildup on the filter, if it is not self-cleaning.
- **Change vacuum-collection bags as needed.**
- Grinder with attached VDCS (photo courtesy of the University of Washington), detail of grinder with VDCS attachment (courtesy of NIOSH).
- **Setup a regular schedule for filter cleaning and maintenance.**
- **Avoid exposure to dust when changing vacuum bags and cleaning or replacing air filters.**



## Compressed Air

Do not use compressed air to clean surfaces, clothing, or filters because it can increase your exposure to silica. Clean only with a HEPA- filtered vacuum or by wet methods.

## Wet Grinding

Water-fed control equipment is often used to reduce dust during granite and concrete grinding and polishing, and when concrete and masonry are cut with abrasive wheels. To be effective, a constant supply of water must be applied to the grinding or cutting point. Tools include a nozzle or spout that provides a stream of water to the grinding wheel. A helper also can apply water by hand using a spray nozzle.

Water-fed grinders can control dust even on uneven surfaces and near corners and edges, which are problem areas for vacuum dust collection equipment.

## Adjustments in Work Methods

Adjusting work practices may also reduce silica exposures:

- **Use a smaller wheel and use the least aggressive** tool that will do the same job whenever possible. Larger wheels and more aggressive wheels (e.g., diamond wheels) result in higher silica exposures.
- **Reduce the amount of fine grinding required.** For example, less dust is created when material is removed by chipping instead of grinding. Use a hammer and chisel or power-chipping tool to remove most of the material before using a grinder to smooth the surface.

## Respiratory Protection

When wet grinding is not feasible and VDCs do not reduce silica exposures to OSHA's permissible exposure limit, workers will need respiratory protection. Where respirators are required, employers have to put in place a written respiratory protection program in accord with OSHA's Respiratory Protection standard. It must include the following:

- How to select a respirator;
- Fit testing;
- Directions on proper use, maintenance, cleaning and disinfecting;
- Medical evaluations of workers; and
- Training.

For more information on how to determine proper respiratory protection, visit OSHA's website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). For more detailed information on controlling silica exposures when using hand-operated grinders, refer to OSHA Publication 3362, *Controlling Silica Exposures in Construction*.

## Electrical Safety

Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and watertight, sealable electrical connectors for electric tools and equipment on construction sites. These features are particularly important in wet or damp areas, such as where water is used to control dust.

## OSHA Announces Final Rule Revising Standards for Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration today announced that it would be issuing a [final rule](#) to improve workplace safety and health for workers performing electric power generation, transmission, and distribution work.

“This long-overdue update will save nearly 20 lives and prevent 118 serious injuries annually,” said Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. “Electric utilities, electrical contractors and labor organizations have persistently championed these much-needed measures to better protect the men and women who work on or near electrical power lines.”

OSHA is revising the 40-year-old construction standard for electric power line work to make it more consistent with the corresponding general industry standard and is also making some revisions to the construction and general industry requirements. The updated standards for general industry and construction include new or revised provisions for host and contract employers to share safety-related information with each other and with employees, as well as for improved fall protection for employees working from aerial lifts and on overhead line structures. In addition, the standards adopt revised approach-distance requirements to better ensure that unprotected workers do not get dangerously close to energized lines and equipment. The final rule also adds new requirements to protect workers from electric arcs.

General industry and construction standards for electrical protective equipment are also revised under the final rule. The new standard for electrical protective equipment applies to all construction work and replaces the existing construction standard, which was based on out-of-date information, with a set of performance-oriented requirements consistent with the latest revisions of the relevant consensus standards. The new standards address the safe use and care of electrical protective equipment, including new requirements that equipment made of materials other than rubber provide adequate protection from electrical hazards.

The final rule will result in estimated monetized benefits of \$179 million annually, with net benefits equal to about \$130 million annually.

Additional information on the final rule is available at [http://www.osha.gov/dsg/power\\_generation/](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/power_generation/). The final rule becomes effective 90 days after publication in the Federal Register. OSHA adopted delayed compliance deadlines for certain requirements.

Under the [Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970](#), employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

The Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution final rule will be adopted by TOSHA within six months of OSHA’s issuance.

# BULLETIN BOARD

For a look at upcoming TOSHA training seminars:

[http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/tosha/tosha\\_training.pdf](http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/tosha/tosha_training.pdf)



*TENNESSEE SAFETY & HEALTH CONGRESS*

Registration is now open for this year's Tennessee Safety and Health Congress. TSHC will be held at Gaylord Opryland July 20-23.

<https://www.tnsafetycongress.org/>

**What:** Fall Protection Safety Stand Down

**When:** Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** All construction projects across the state are encouraged to join.

**Why:** The topic to be discussed at the safety stand down will be fall protection.



<https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/index.html>



**Burns Phillips**

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of Labor and Workforce Development*

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## Helpful Links

[Tennessee's Official Government Website](#)

[Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development](#)

[Tennessee Occupational Safety & Health Administration](#)

[Occupational Safety & Health](#)

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